

### REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 1, 3-8, 10 and 12-15, of which claims 1 and 12 are independent. Claims 2, 9 and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter, that subject matter having been incorporated into independent claim 1.

Applicants submit herewith a replacement sheet for Sheet 1, which identifies Figure 1 as --Prior Art--. Acceptance of the replacement sheet and withdrawal of the objection to Figure 1 is respectfully sought.

Applicants have amended the abstract and specification to address the informalities cited therein.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. As the Examiner will appreciate, the objected to language has been eliminated from claim 1 and Applicants have amended claim 12 to address the rejection thereof. In addition, claim 7 has also been further amended. Given the amendments to each of claims 1, 7 and 12, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under § 112, second paragraph, has been addressed and overcome.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 11 recites patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As the Examiner will appreciate, claim 11, together with intervening claims 9 and 2, have been cancelled and their subject matter has been incorporated into independent claim 1. The subject matter of claims 2, 9 and 11 have replaced the wherein clause originally contained in

claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that patentable subject matter has been incorporated into claim 1 and that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.'

Claims 12-15 were identified as reciting patentable subject matter and being allowable once the rejection under § 112, second paragraph, is addressed. Applicants respectfully submit that that rejection has been addressed and that claims 12-15 are now in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore patentable over the art of record for the reasons noted above with respect to claim 1. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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